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Opening of Ritz Carlton is good news for tourism and local work force:



ATA submits second Annual Report to Minister of Tourism

Last week Minister of Tourism, Otmar Oduber received, for the second consecutive year, the Annual 2012 ATA SC Report. In this manner they have again complied with the stipulated rules. Ernst & Young also submitted the Financial Report with the approval of the President of the Supervisory Board of ATA SG, Mr. Jossy Lacle.

The Minister is extremely pleased to see that ATA is faithfully complying with these reports within the margin of the law. He applauded their professionalism and diligence as a young company.

In the past there was a bureaucratic process for arriving at funds for ATA to do their marketing, etc., this is no



longer so. To the contrary, today there are reserve funds, which gives the markets ample advances and which benefits the economy of Aruba as well.

The Minister will now forward the Annual Report to Parliament where it will reside for

The government was very pleased following a meeting with Ritz Carlton's General Manager Roberto Grisi. Grisi took the time to indicate the progress of the work on the hotel.

Ritz Carlton will add a new dimension to the luxury on the island of Aruba. It is the only company to win the prestigious Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award in the area of service for two times around. The Minister exclaimed... "I am certain that (Ritz Carlton) will give the tourism sector a giant impulse and elevate our product and service to a much higher level."

Last Wednesday, Minister Oduber, ATA's Ronela Tjin Asjoe-Croes, AAA's Peter Steinmetz and AHATA's Jim Hepple received a tour of the Ritz Carlton premises to personally experience the development of the construction and the steps they are taking to work towards a November 2, 2013 opening of the hotel.

Continued on page 2

10 days, after which the Minister will formally approve the report.

The Minister congratulated the entire ATA team for their work and professionalism demonstrated over these past two years.

Maduro confirmed as Venezuela president-elect; Capriles opposes



A supporter of Venezuelan opposition presidential candidate Henrique Capriles protests banging an empty pan in Caracas.



Supporters of Venezuelan opposition presidential candidate Henrique Capriles protest in Caracas.

CARACAS - Venezuela's electoral authorities yesterday confirmed acting President Nicolas Maduro as the winner of the weekend election to succeed Hugo Chavez, despite opposition demands for a recount.

National Electoral Council president Tibisay Lucena handed the certified results to Maduro after proclaiming him "president-elect of Venezuela" following the tight election against opposition leader Henrique Capriles.

Lucena gave final figures for the vote, and said Maduro won with 50.75 percent of the vote compared to 48.97 percent for Capriles -- a difference

of around 265,000 votes.

As the council made the announcement, Capriles supporters banged pots and pans outside their windows in an eastern neighborhood of Caracas as a form of protest.

The head of Maduro's campaign accused Capriles of inciting violence.

"This man, Capriles, does not know how to lose," Jorge Rodriguez, the head of Maduro's campaign, told reporters yesterday.

Venezuela's top elections official, Tibisay Lucena, called the results "irreversible." An hour later, Capriles vowed to contest them.

Continued on page 5

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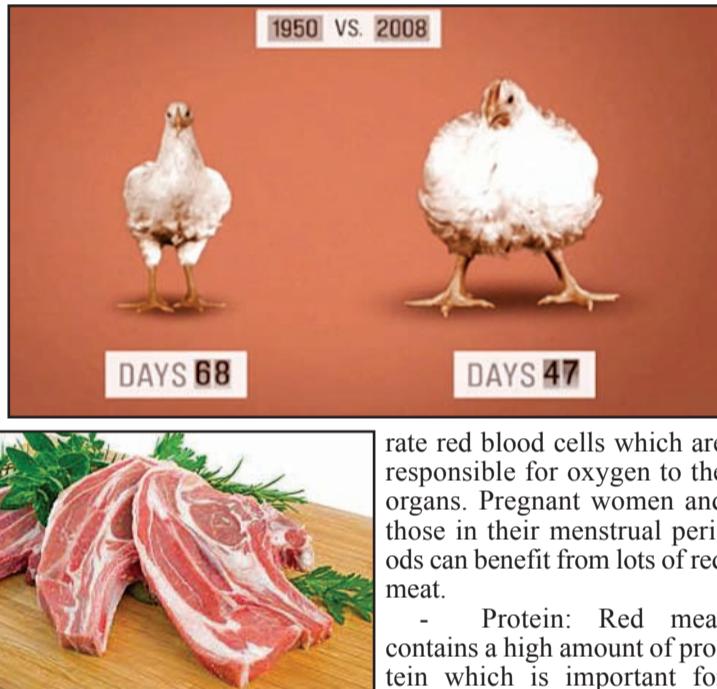
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Aruban livestock is organic and of superior quality

SANTA ROSA -- Raising animals such as goats, lambs, pigs, chickens and ducks has been a part of Aruba's history and culture. The production of meat from abroad has increased considerably, thanks to automation and hormonal ingredients. Companies have been created to produce meat, chickens and eggs on a massive scale. These animals are given hormones so they can grow fast; they also receive antibiotics and special food. These, in turn, can have negative effects on the health of humans who eat these foods. Illnesses such as cancer and Alzheimer are among the many negative effects.

As a result of the negative effects, people have become more interested in organic products. Animals that are not treated with any type of hormone get no antibiotics and are permitted to roam around freely in large yards. This makes their meat fresh and uncontaminated.

In Aruba the quality of the meat produced here are of a superior quality, thanks to the manner in which our livestock farmers care for their animals. Their animals are raised on large yard spaces, given adequate feeding containing no kind of contaminants, no che-



micals of any sort; no pesticides are used at any time.

The benefits of organic meat are many. They contain a high level of:

- Zinc: Adolescents and children have a tendency to be deficient in zinc, particularly women. Zinc is important to maintain good health and a healthy immune system.

- Iron: is essential for the fight against anemia. Red meat contains a large amount of iron, much more than in any vegetable. Iron helps to gene-

rate red blood cells which are responsible for oxygen to the organs. Pregnant women and those in their menstrual periods can benefit from lots of red meat.

- Protein: Red meat contains a high amount of protein which is important for healthy muscles. They also contain amino acids which the body does not produce, but which is necessary for our health.

- Vitamin B: Vitamin B maintains our nervous system healthy.

Santa Rosa is proud of the quality of meat; our goat, sheep, pork and chicken products produced locally. They are encouraging our people to look for the local organic meat products, and in so doing maintain good health!

Opening of Ritz Carlton is good news...

Continued from page 1



The government has pledged their full support.

Airport Director, Peter Steinmetz indicated that with respect to air traffic, he foresees the possibility for opening extra flights. They also discussed the plans that AAA has in connection with the opening of the Ritz Carlton and improving the service at the airport.

With the coming of Ritz Carlton, Aruba will have 320 additional rooms on the mar-

ket. According to Tjin Asjoe-Croes, ATA has done different analysis to calculate the occupancy for 2014. Hence, they foresee a 6% increase in visitors as a result of this project.

The government also remarked that Ritz Carlton will contribute the local labor force with more than 600 new jobs. This will definitely help eliminate practically all or unemployment, while adding a brand new product of the highest caliber to our tourism plant.

Advisory of the Aruba Health Department regarding Colombian candy

ORANJESTAD -- The Aruba Health Department advises consumers to be alert for the product "Grissly" - a gummy candy produced by Colombina Candy Company - which has been on store shelves from February 2013 up to now.

If a person, after eating the candy "Grissly," experiences certain strange symptoms, like numbness of the tongue or diarrhea, a foul smell or a bad taste, please call the Health Department immediately.

The Hygiene Service of the Health Department kindly asks anyone reporting above-mentioned symptoms to pass personally at their offices or to call at tel. 5224273 / 5224275 to officially file a complaint and turn in the product.

The Hygiene Service office will attend this case from April 15 to April 17, between 8:00 and 11:30 a.m. and from 2:00



to 4:00 pm. The office is situated in Oduberstraat 1, behind in the same building of the Department of Public Health.

The Department of Public Health also request to all those who have bought this candy and still has some of it to please turn it in to the Hygiene Service.

Photo above shows a copy of the packing of the "Grissly" gummy candy.

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**Tony Woods**

U.S. visitors may be unfamiliar with the name Jörgan Raymann, but he is one of the biggest names in comedy in Holland and the Dutch Caribbean; a top-rated late night talk host equal to David Letterman in popularity and status.

Jörgan performed his stand-up comedy show for several nights to sold out auditoriums last June, and he saw a void in Aruba's entertainment that he is filling with his "Comedy Factory." He has hand-picked three top U.S. comedians, Erin Jackson, Tony Woods and Todd "T" Rex, who will be appearing for only two nights in the

Alhambra Casino and Shopping Mall Ballroom, tonight and tomorrow.

Since first making a name for herself at colleges and east coast comedy clubs, Erin's warm, conversational style and relatable humor have helped to propel her onto the national stage. She has performed on "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" and Comedy Central's "Live at Gotham," and was a semifinalist on season 6 of NBC's "Last Comic Standing." Erin has also

appeared on VH-1 and worked with both HBO and BET on live comedy and awards specials. She was recently featured on TV Guide Network's "StandUp in Stilettos" and is currently touring the country as part of the "Pumps & Punchlines" theatre tour.

Tony Woods has a strong following in the U.S., UK, Australia and Europe. The veteran comic kicked off his career as an original member of "Russell Simmons' Def Comedy Jam" on HBO and "P. Diddy's Bad Boys of Comedy." His playful and cool demeanor, combined with sharp and mischievous subject matter, delivers a show

**Erin Jackson**

that is entertaining at every level, inviting his audience to become a part of his strange world and hilarious, perceptive observations.

Recent appearances by Woods include "Comedy Central Presents: Tony Woods", the "Comedy Central USO Tour" and "Comedy Central World of Comedy Tour". These have made him a favorite on the international comedy circuit. He has performed on "Late Night with Conan O'Brien", "HBO Comedy Spot" and Australia's "The Footy Show," to name only a few of his TV appearances.

For over a decade, Todd Rex, aka T-Rexx has been

winning over audiences with his cunning wit, over the top impersonations and crowd interaction. Todd is a disciple of alternative comedy, featuring an off center style comprised of a mixed bag of personal experience, everyday observations, and hypothetical situations to connect with any audience. Born in Long Branch, New Jersey, he found acceptance when while his father moved around and he was attending new schools regularly by quickly establishing himself as the class clown. His specialties were sound effects, jokes, and comedic antics that entertained teachers and staff as well.

Todd finally brought his talents to the stage at "The Comedy Café" in Washington, D.C., and hasn't looked back since. Todd's comedic exploits have taken him to Europe, Japan, Canada, Mexico, U.S. Virgin Islands, as well as coast to coast of the US, touching almost every state in the union. He has worked with Jerry Seinfeld, David Alan Grier, Dane Cook, D.L. Hughley, Bernie Mac, Russell Peters, Gilbert Godfrey, Dave Chappelle, and Tommy Davidson, to

**Todd Rex, aka T-Rexx**

only name a few.

Todd has made numerous television appearances, including "BET's Comicview" and "One Mic Stand." He has appeared on the "Tonight Show with Jay Leno", "HBO's Def Comedy Jam all-stars" "Rumbles" on HDNet, and "Baggin'" along with a number of film roles.

This dynamic trio of comic talent will be appearing only today and tomorrow at the Alhambra Casino and Shopping Mall in Eagle. The show starts at 7:30 PM and tickets are available at all De Palm Tours activities desks.

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Lionfish competition for 2013 is on



ORANJESTAD -- Last Wednesday a group of fishermen, divers, swimmers and those who snorkel, as well as a few lovers of the sea, all known to be Lionfish killers, met for a night of information. The meeting was to plan the first competition for Djampou di Spina (Lionfish) for 2013.

During the evening the group talked openly and directly to all those interested in the idea for a national competition. They arrived at a concrete plan for the first 2013 competition.

Liquidate the Lionfish:

The primary goal of the Lionfish competition is to catch as many Lionfish as possible, of all sizes in an effort to liquidate them from our waters. Hence, the group decided to have a fishing tournament in two parts. The first part will begin immediately, whereas as of April 11th up to the 29th fishermen can submit their Lionfish catch to participate in the competition. Every participant will receive Afsl.15 per kilo and will be eligible for the prize for the most fish caught.

At the end they plan on having a shoot out and cook out on April 30th, where the group can compete for attractive prizes for the winners. Aruba Marine Park Foundation is in charge of the tournament. Fundacion Centro di Pesca Hadicurari and Santa Rosa are also lending their support with the cooperation of the Ministry of Tourism.

Information:

A special committee is working on finalizing the details and rules. They are also planning a workshop where volunteers will give information regarding the Lionfish, security, instruments used to catch them, etc. The date for the workshop will be announced later.

For more information, visit: Facebook.com/Aruba-MarinePark or Facebook.com/hadicurari, or write to aruba-marinepark@gmail.com or to hadicurari.pesca@gmail.com for details of the event.



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Aruba Bank makes life easier, opens its Customer Service Center at Super Food Plaza

Ready to serve the community, every day including Saturday!



Recently, Aruba Bank announced the opening of its Customer Service Center at Super Food Plaza. The official opening was affected by Marcelline Richardson, Aruba Bank Managing Director, and Jack Bult, representing Super Food.

The Aruba Bank Customer Service Center is designed to offer select services and products by Aruba Bank, at flexible hours and in total convenience. The services offered at the new Service Center include: the opening of bank ac-

counts, both current checking accounts and saving accounts, the application for a car or a personal loans, and digital transactions via Aruba Bank Online (ABO). Patrons may also apply for credit and debit cards, and the ArubaCard.

Aruba Bank would like to inform its clients that cash transactions will not be handled at the new Aruba Bank Customer Service Center. Those transactions will however be available at any of the other Aruba Bank branches. The opening hours for the new Aruba Bank Customer Service Center are the following: From Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, and on Saturday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. For cash transactions, patrons may stop by any other Aruba Bank branch during weekday office hours, and on Saturdays, the Aruba Bank branch in Camacuri, is available from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

To celebrate the opening, Aruba Bank will treat all Customer Service Center visitors with special care, and they will also receive a gift. Aruba Bank's service representatives are ready to serve clients at the Customer Service Center at Super Food Plaza, as of today.

Maduro confirmed...

Continued from page 1

"I want to tell the candidate of the government: Today you're the loser and I'm telling you this unequivocally. You are the loser, you and your government," he said early yesterday.

"I say that unequivocally and with all commitment and transparency. We will not recognize any results until each vote of the Venezuelan people has been counted."

His refusal to concede left key questions about Venezuela's future unanswered yesterday: Will authorities recount the votes? Will political tension in the deeply divided country boil over after the tight race? And will world leaders recognize the results?

The presidents of Argentina, Bolivia and Cuba offered congratulations to Maduro. But the head of a prominent regional body said he supported a recount. And a White House spokesman pushed for an audit of the results.

"The result as reported is extremely close," White House spokesman Jay Carney told reporters. "The opposition candidate and at least one member of the electoral council have called for an audit, which ... in our view, seems like an important and prudent step to take."

The head of the Organization of American States yesterday backed calls for a recount in Venezuela's presidential elections, offering the help of experts from the regional body.

"Regarding the need to carry out an audit and complete recount of the vote, Secretary General (Jose Miguel) Insulza expressed his support for this initiative and put at Venezuela's disposal the OAS' team of election experts," the organization said in a statement.

Chavez allies in the region -- Cuba, Ecuador, Bolivia, Nicaragua, and Argentina -- also congratulated Maduro on his victory.

FAA launches tail inspections on Boeing 737s

NEW YORK (AFP) - US air-safety regulators said yesterday they would inspect more than 1,000 Boeing 737s for a faulty tail part that could cause a pilot to lose control of the jetliner.

In a new safety headache for Boeing three months after its 787 Dreamliner was grounded worldwide, the Federal Aviation Administration said it would inspect the single-aisle 737s for improperly mounted pins on the tail and replace those found faulty.

The FAA said the airwor-

thiness directive (AD) would take effect on May 20 and "affects 1,050 airplanes of US registry."

"We are issuing this AD to prevent premature failure of the attach pins, which could cause reduced structural integrity of the horizontal stabilizer to fuselage attachment, resulting in loss of control of the airplane," the FAA said.

The agency notice did not mention any incident so far resulting from the faulty parts.

The affected planes include the -600, -700, -700C, -800, -

900, and -900ER models of the 737.

The single-aisle 737 is Boeing's most popular model, with more than 10,000 planes sold.

The FAA estimated the operation could cost as much as \$10 million to US airlines, but a part of the cost may be covered by the manufacturer's warranty.

Boeing said the action had been planned "for some time" after the company issued its first notice of the problem in April 2012.

"This AD is not linked to any in-service event but rather a finding of a surface finish degradation on recently installed attachment pins," Bret Jensen, a Boeing Commercial Airplanes engineering spokesman, said in an email to AFP.

Jensen noted that the directive "does not require immediate action for any currently-flying 737s" because it requires inspection and possible replacement of the pins by 56,000 flight cycles.

Among the currently flying 737s, the aircraft with the

most cycles is at 40,000 flight cycles, he said.

The safety development came as Boeing works with the FAA to get its 787 Dreamliner back in the skies after overheating batteries grounded the new high-tech plane worldwide in mid-January.

The US aerospace giant conducted a second and final 787 Dreamliner test flight on April 5 to assess its proposed battery fix.

Boeing shares were down 2.1 percent in afternoon New York trade.

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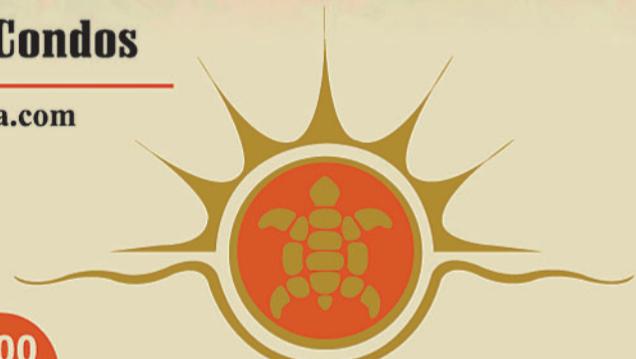
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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1-mn-euro stolen gold egg recovered near French-Swiss border

GRENoble, France (AFP) - A bejewelled golden egg stolen four years ago in Geneva and worth an estimated one million euros (\$1.3 million) has been recovered by French police near the Swiss border, police said yesterday.

The precious egg, made in the style of the famous Faberge pieces, was discovered on Thursday in a "suspect" BMW pulled over during a routine roadblock near the Swiss border, driven by two Belarusian men who were promptly arrested.

A third Belarusian, a Swiss resident, trailing in a Jaguar was pulled over and arrested a short while later, according to a police statement.

Under questioning the three men unconvincingly claimed they had found the jewelled

work of art lying on the ground, or had bought it cheaply in a flea-market, a French police official told AFP on condition of anonymity.

"They're not talking much. We have the impression we're dealing with a team tasked with transporting and negotiating the sale of the artwork," the official said.

The three, aged between 24 and 38, were charged with receiving stolen goods and possessing a weapon.

They were already sought in France and Switzerland for several burglaries.

The egg, containing more than a kilogram of gold and boasting hundreds of gems, was burgled in 2009 from a Kuwait import-export firm based in Geneva.



TEGUCIGALPA : AFP photo shows a National Police officer working at the crime scene in which five people -- including a high school student -- were shot dead in the suburb of La Haya, in northern Tegucigalpa, on April 15, 2013. In March 2012, the UN announced Honduras had the world's highest murder rate, at 82.1 deaths per 100,000 people, while a local observatory on violence put the rate at 86.5 per 100,000. Poverty, gangs, and low apprehension and conviction rates of criminals contribute to a high crime rate. There have been reports of men carrying firearms and machetes, which has led to violence several times.

N. Korea vows attack on South over anti-North activities

SEOUL (AFP) - North Korea's military yesterday issued an "ultimatum" saying it would attack without warning if anti-North Korean activities continued in the South.

The warning came after protesters in Seoul yesterday burned portraits of North Korea's founder Kim Il-Sung, his son Kim Jong-Il and grandson and current leader Kim Jong-Un.

The act coincided with national celebrations in North Korea for the 101st anniversary of the birth of Kim Il-Sung, a day it reveres as "The Day of the Sun".

"All the service personnel and people of the DPRK (North Korea) are simmering with towering resentment at this monstrous criminal act," the army's supreme command said in a release carried on the official Korean Central News Agency.

In an "ultimatum" to the South, it warned: "Our retaliatory

Oil prices plunge after weak US, China data

NEW YORK (AFP) - Oil prices plunged yesterday in New York and London after disappointing economic data in the United States and China, the world's biggest crude oil consumers.

New York's main contract, West Texas Intermediate for May delivery, closed at \$88.71 a barrel, down a hefty \$2.58 from Friday. Earlier in the day WTI had slumped to \$87.86, its lowest level since late December.

Brent North Sea crude for delivery in May tanked \$2.72 to settle at \$100.39 a barrel in London trade. The European benchmark had flirted with \$100 -- a level not crossed since July 12, 2012 -- in early trade.

"The week opened with heavy losses across the oil markets reflecting the current bearish momentum," said senior analyst Myrto Sokou at the Sudden brokerage in London. "The recent Chinese economic data failed to meet analysts' expectations and added further pressure to the market that was already showing sharp losses following disappointing US economic data last week."

The news raises questions about the strength of the world's number-two economy, which is a key driver of global growth, analysts said.

tory action will start without any notice from now as such a thrice-cursed criminal act of hurting the dignity of the supreme leadership of the DPRK is being openly committed in the heart of Seoul under the patronage of the puppet authorities."

It added that the armed forces "will start immediately their just military actions to show how the service personnel and people of the DPRK value and protect the dignity of the supreme leadership."

The Korean peninsula has been in a state of heightened military tension since the North carried out its third nuclear test in February.

Incensed by fresh UN sanctions and joint South Korea-US military exercises, Pyongyang has spent weeks issuing blistering threats of missile strikes and nuclear war.

In an attempt to defuse tensions, South Korea's new president, Park Geun-Hye, in

recent days has signalled the need to open a dialogue and "listen to what North Korea thinks".

But the North has rejected her proposals as a "crafty trick" to conceal Seoul's aggressive intentions.

North Korea's army supreme command said that if South Korea really wanted dialogue and negotiations, "they should apologise for all anti-DPRK hostile acts, big and small".

The North has a habit of linking high-profile military tests with key dates, and expectations had been high of a mid-range missile test to coincide with Monday's celebrations marking the birth of Kim Il-Sung.

But unlike the centennial birth anniversary last year, there was no muscular military parade through the centre of Pyongyang and officials in Seoul said the "missile watch" could drag on for days.

US Supreme Court declines gun permit case

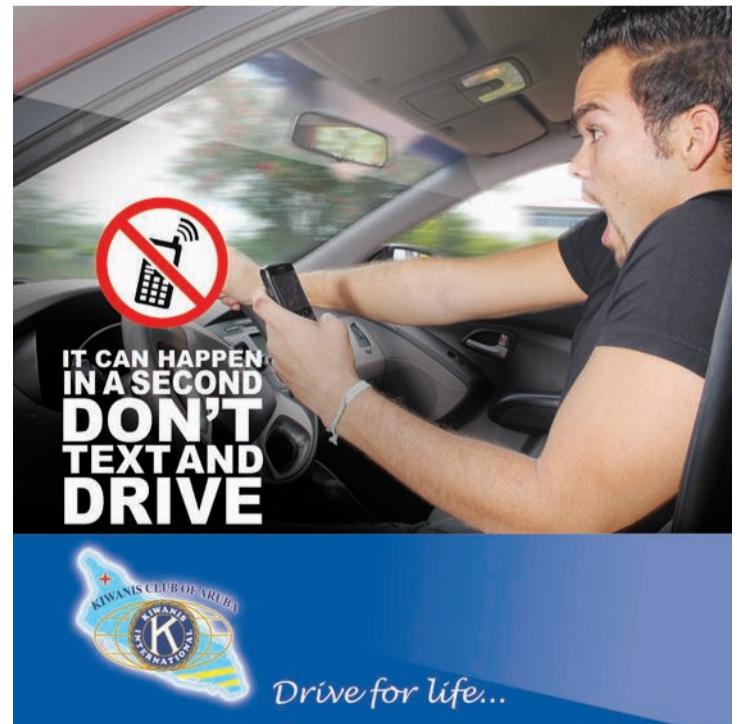
WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US Supreme Court yesterday declined to hear a case on whether New York state can require citizens to prove their need for self-defense in order to get a gun-carrying permit.

The case concerns five New Yorkers who had been denied permits, and who said the law violates their constitutional right to bear arms. The Supreme Court could consider the case in a future session.

The National Rifle Association supported the plaintiffs, saying the law amounted to a ban on carrying weapons outside of the home.

"Courts would not tolerate for one second a regime that granted free speech or the privilege against self-incrimination only to those who could demonstrate an unusually heightened need for those constitutional protections," it wrote in an amicus brief filed in February.

The law was upheld by a New York appeals court shortly before the Newtown school massacre of 20 children in December, which re-ignited a fierce national debate over gun control. Other states, including Maryland, California and Hawaii, have similar laws.



International News

BBC refuses to back down in row over N. Korea film

LONDON (AFP) - The BBC refused to back down on Monday in a row with the London School of Economics over an undercover film about North Korea made by a journalist posing as one of the prestigious university's students.

The LSE has demanded that the British broadcaster pull the programme, after calling the subterfuge "reckless and irresponsible".

It said the students on the trip would have been in "serious danger" had North Korean authorities discovered the truth about reporter John Sweeney, who apparently claimed on his visa application that he was a doctoral student in history.

However, the BBC insisted in a statement that "the public interest in broadcasting this programme is very strong indeed" as an insight into one of the world's most secretive states.

Director of programming Ceri Thomas insisted that students on the trip were informed beforehand that a journalist would be travelling with them and knew the risks.

The trip was organised and attended by Sweeney's Japanese wife Tomiko, a recent LSE graduate.

"But I need to be absolutely clear that if we had any suggestions

that lives were at risk or anything approaching that -- either the BBC team's lives or the lives of the students -- then we wouldn't have gone anywhere near this." Thomas told BBC radio

He added that the "North Korea Undercover" programme for the investigative Panorama show had been authorised at the highest level at the BBC, saying: "This went right to the top."

LSE director Craig Calhoun warned that the investigation had left the university's students and staff, and academics generally, "in a very difficult, if not dangerous, position".

"The danger now is that the North Koreans, and governments in equally sensitive parts of the world, will think the same of LSE staff and students.

Calhoun said the trip to North Korea appeared to have been planned entirely to facilitate the insertion of a three-person BBC team into the secretive communist state.

The BBC said it never intended to make reference to the LSE in the programme, and the faces of three students who have since complained will be pixilated.

But Calhoun said details of the trip were always going to leak out.

France, Belgium hunt convict after explosive jailbreak

LILLE (AFP) - Police in France and Belgium were intensively searching Sunday for a dangerous convicted bank robber who dynamited his way out of a French prison on the weekend with the help of as-yet unidentified accomplices.

A Europe-wide alert for the fugitive, 40-year-old Redoine Faid, is in effect, as is an Interpol bulletin, and France has set more than 100 investigators on his trail.

Faid, who was serving time for past robberies and who risked a heavy sentence over

the 2010 death of a police-woman, used explosives to blast his way out of the Sequedin penitentiary just 15 kilometres (10 miles) from the Belgian border.

Armed with a pistol, he briefly took four guards hostage for his escape.

All the hostages were released unharmed. The first getaway car was found burnt along the highway, where Faid is believed to have switched to a second vehicle.

The spectacular jailbreak was reminiscent of a Holly-

Seven bodies found in Cancun courtyard

CANCUN (AFP) - Seven bodies were found stacked on top of each other, blindfolded, in a courtyard in the Mexican beach resort of Cancun, a top state police official said Sunday.

"They were blindfolded with tape tan. The presumed cause of death is suffocation," state judicial police director Arturo Olivares Mendiola told local reporters.

According to the preliminary investigation, the victims had been kidnapped Saturday night near a park and were murdered in the early hours of Sunday.

The bodies were thrown into the courtyard of a house apparently used to sell drugs and guarded by thugs.

Cancun, the country's most popular tourist destination, has mostly avoided the drug-related violence roiling Mexico since 2006. But last month, seven men, including the head of the taxi union, were killed at a bar in a blue-collar neighborhood.

More than 70,000 people have been killed in the drug war in the past six years.

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China media urge eating poultry despite bird flu

BEIJING (AFP) - Chinese state media Monday urged people to keep eating chicken and help revive the poultry industry, which lost 10 billion yuan (\$1.6 billion) in the week after the H7N9 bird flu virus began infecting humans.

A total of 62 people have been confirmed as infected and 14 have died in the two weeks since Chinese authorities said they found the strain

in humans for the first time.

"The public should somewhat restrain their anxieties to avoid this becoming a disaster for the whole poultry industry," the Global Times said in an editorial, adding that not eating poultry was "unfair to farmers".

It called the avoidance of such foods "excessive anxiety" and urged people instead to "demonstrate a collective spirit beyond individualism".

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), influenza viruses are rendered inactive by temperatures above 70C (158F), making it safe to eat well-cooked meat.

Experts fear the prospect of such viruses mutating into a form easily transmissible between humans, which would have the potential to trigger a pandemic -- but the WHO has said there is no evidence yet of such a development.

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Hundreds expected for French breast implants mega-trial

MARSEILLE (AFP) - France will launch one its biggest-ever trials on Wednesday as five managers from company PIP face charges of selling faulty breast implants that sparked a global health scare.

More than 5,000 women have registered as plaintiffs in the case, which sees the defendants including 73-year-old PIP founder Jean-Claude Mas charged with aggravated fraud for using industrial-grade silicone in implants.

An estimated 300,000 women in 65 countries are believed to have received the implants, which are twice as likely to rupture as other brands.

News of the faulty implants in 2011 sparked fears worldwide, but health officials in various countries have said they were not toxic and did not increase the risk of breast cancer. A 10-year case study has been launched in France to de-

termine the long-term effects.

More than 4,000 women have reported ruptures in the implants and in France alone 15,000 have had the PIP implants replaced.

Hundreds of the victims, as well as some 300 lawyers, are expected to attend the trial in the southern port city of Marseille, near PIP's former headquarters.

Authorities have moved the proceedings to a hall of the city's congress centre that seats 700 people and provided three other rooms where more than 800 others will be able to watch video transmissions.

The logistical costs of the trial have been estimated at 800,000 euros (\$1 million).

The defendants face up to five years in prison and the trial is set to last until May 17.

Victims say they are anxious to see PIP representatives held to account for the trauma suffered by women with the im-

plants.

Mas, a former travelling salesman who got his start in the medical business by selling pharmaceuticals, founded PIP in 1991 to take advantage of the booming market for cosmetic implants.

Health authorities later discovered he was saving millions of euros by allegedly using industrial-grade gel in 75 percent of the implants. PIP's implants were banned and the company eventually liquidated.

PIP had exported more than 80 percent of its implants, with about half going to Latin America, about a third to other countries in western Europe, about 10 percent to eastern Europe and the rest to the Middle East and Asia.

France is the only major country that has compensated women for having the implants replaced, but at ceiling of 4,200 euros (\$5,500).

Health & Living

Breast milk bank to cater to needy infants in India

JAIPUR - (AFP) - A mother's milk bank catering to needy infants free of cost has been set up in northwestern India as part of a drive to save the lives of vulnerable children.

The bank, inaugurated in Rajasthan's Udaipur city, will provide "safe and pasteurised human milk" to children whose mothers are unable to feed them, the chief operations officer of the bank, R. K. Agarwal, told AFP.

It is believed to be the first such centre in north India, Agarwal said. Others operate in the south of the country.

"Foster mothers and wet nursing has been a tradition of India. It has been scientifically proved mother's milk is the ultimate and universal wonder drug for infants," said Agarwal, who is a paediatrician.

"The bank wants to make available this precious natural milk to as many infants as possible when their own mothers are not able to do so."

Breastfeeding is recommended for feeding babies, but mothers who give birth to preterm babies struggle to provide breast milk while others may be unable to produce it, Agarwal said.

Donor milk can also be a life-saving measure for babies, helping protect against infection and promoting growth, he said.

Agarwal said volunteers would ask lactating women in the area to donate their milk at the bank. The donor would be screened for various diseases and the milk would then be pooled and pasteurised before being refrigerated.

The World Health Organisation recommends exclusive breastfeeding for up to six months of age to help ensure good health and survival of babies.

One in three malnourished children worldwide is found in India, with 47 percent of under-threes underweight, according to UNICEF.



Plantains also known as plátanos are closely related cultivars to bananas; however, eaten as vegetables much like fellow tropical produce such as potatoes, taro, breadfruit, yam, sweet potatoes, etc.

Health benefits of plantains

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-Fresh plantains have more vitamin C than bananas.
-Plantains have more vitamin A than bananas.
-As in bananas, they too are rich sources of B-complex vitamins, particularly high in vitamin-B6 (pyridoxine). Pyridoxine is an important B-complex vitamin that has a beneficial role in the treatment of neuritis, anemia, and to decrease homocystine (one of the causative factors for coronary artery disease (CHD) and stroke episodes) levels in the body. In addition, the fruit contains moderate levels of folates, niacin, riboflavin and thiamin.
-They also provide adequate levels of minerals such as iron, magnesium, and phosphorous. Magnesium is essential for bone strengthening and has a cardiac-protective role as well.

-Fresh plantains have more potassium than bananas. 100 g fruit provides 499 mg of potassium (358 mg per 100 g for bananas). Potassium is an important component of cell and body fluids that helps control heart rate and blood pressure, countering negative effects of sodium.



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Sci-Tech

Guns black market thriving in Philippines

MANILA (AFP) - Bespectacled and clean shaven, 37-year-old Jomari Paraas could pass for a typical office employee in the Philippines, except he has six guns in his backpack that he will soon sell.

The father-of-two is a prolific player in the country's enormous and lucrative weapons black market, which has been under scrutiny following a spate of high-profile massacres and shoot-outs this year.

"Why do I trade guns? Because there is a demand for it. And it's extra income," said Paraas.

Paraas started selling used guns and knock-offs of foreign brands made by illegal gunsmiths in the central and southern Philippines, before moving to more expensive weapons smuggled from abroad.

The American-made .22 calibre Magnum Black Widow revolvers in his bag were ordered by a buyer through a shadowy network of small-time gun runners who take advantage of the city's urban squalor to peddle their deadly wares.

Their clients range from security-conscious house wives to slum dwellers and members

of "private armies" employed by political warlords.

There were 1.2 million registered firearms in the Philippines last year, with another 600,000 unlicensed firearms in circulation, according to national police data.

Getting a license to own a conventional gun is easy, subject to police clearance and security checks that include psychological tests, and firearms shops sit alongside clothes outlets in malls.

But getting one without a police clearance can be even easier.

Private security guards with loaded, sawn-off shotguns infest the crime-plagued cities, protecting small and large private businesses.

Restaurants, nightclubs and banks often have signs asking patrons to leave their firearms at entrance counters.

President Benigno Aquino launched a high-profile campaign at the start of the year to get unlicensed guns off the streets.

Security analyst Ed Quitoriano said the climate of fear fuelled the black market.

"If the public trusted the government more, there would be no need for them to protect themselves by arming," he said.

Antarctic summer ice melting 10 times faster: study
SYDNEY (AFP) - Summer ice in the Antarctic is melting 10 times quicker than it was 600 years ago, with the most rapid melt occurring in the last 50 years, a joint Australian-British study showed.

A research team from the Australian National University and the British Antarctic Survey drilled a 364-metre (1,194 feet) long ice core from James Ross Island in the continent's north to measure past temperatures in the area.

Visible layers in the ice core indicated periods when summer snow on the ice cap thawed and then refroze.

By measuring the thickness of these melt layers, the scientists were able to examine how the history of melting compared with changes in temperature at the ice core site over the last 1,000 years.

"Today, we see almost 10 times as much of the annual snowfall melting each year." Whilst temperatures at this site increased gradually in phases over many hundreds of years, most of the intensification of melting has happened since the mid-20th century," the researchers.

Ecuador to launch first homemade satellite



QUITO (AFP) - Ecuador will launch its first satellite into space from China in two weeks, President Rafael Correa announced.

"It's not a satellite bought in another country, it's a satellite made in Ecuador," Correa said proudly during his weekly address of the homegrown engineering team.

The "Pegaso" (pegasus) nanosatellite will be launched

from China aboard an unmanned rocket at 0513 GMT on April 26.

Measuring just 10 by 10 by 75 centimeters (four by four by 30 inches), and weighing 1.2 kilograms (2.6 pounds), Pegaso will beam live video images back to Earth from an onboard camera.

The Ecuadorian Space Agency plans a second satellite launch in July.



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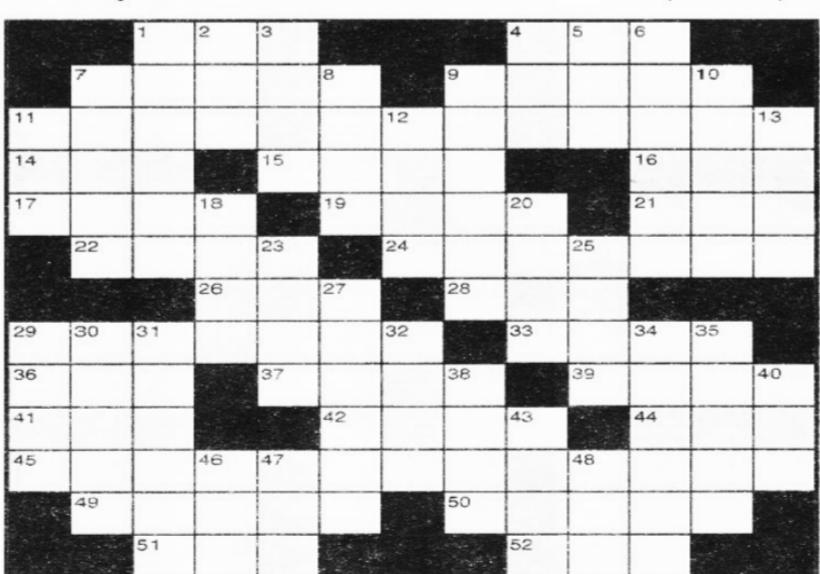
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ACROSS

- 1. Leather punch
- 4. Driver's bane
- 7. Burden of ___
- 9. Sal of "Rebel Without a Cause"
- 11. Order at a French restaurant (4 wds.)
- 14. ___ creek (2 wds.)
- 15. California valley
- 16. Lodge member
- 17. Auction actions
- 19. Decades
- 21. Victory signal
- 22. Durocher and Tolstoy
- 24. Puts new film in the camera
- 26. Pallid
- 28. Former VP Quayle
- 29. Implement
- 31. Brunch, for one
- 33. "Shoo!"
- 36. VI
- 37. "Extremely dry
- 39. New York time (abbr.)
- 41. Understood
- 44. Miss Piggy's word for "me"
- 45. Emulating Jacques Cousteau (3 wds.)
- 49. Slow mollusk
- 50. Unkempt places
- 51. Letters after a dentist's name
- 52. Contains

DOWN

- 1. Video game parlor
- 2. Stir-fry skillet
- 3. Bank service
- 4. Douglas, e.g.
- 5. Soap ___ rope
- 6. Swiss metropolis
- 7. School student
- 8. Off-key
- 9. Groaned
- 10. Eyed flirtatiously
- 11. Name a knight
- 12. Mime
- 13. Scrapes by
- 18. Scattered, as seed
- 20. Shut hard
- 23. Show cheeky insolence
- 25. Draft status (hyph.)
- 27. Buffalo coin
- 29. Preowned
- 30. Ocean movements
- 31. Lengthen
- 32. Singer Cantrell
- 34. Military forces
- 35. Zoo attractions
- 38. Kennedy and Knight
- 40. Make a hole ___ care
- 43. Handle ___ care
- 46. Knee guard
- 47. Spanish affirmatives
- 48. By way of





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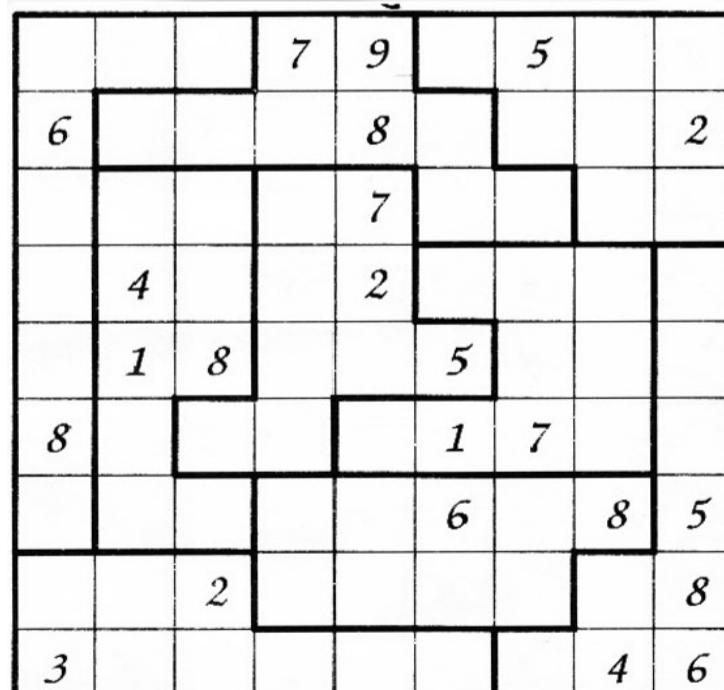
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

3	8	7	9	5				
6			8					2
4								
1	8						5	
8							1	7

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



Daily Exchange Rates

Current as of: 04/15/2013

	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.77	1.79	1.76
Britain	GBP	2.80	2.85	2.78
Switzerland	CHF	191.71	192.43	193.16
Netherlands	EUR	230.59	232.69	235.32
Sweden	SEK	25.91	26.63	28.37
Denmark	DKK	30.23	30.95	31.80
Norway	NOK	30.67	31.39	31.62
Japan	JPY	214.88	216.84	184.09
(per 10,000)				

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Gold prices plunge further on weak Chinese GDP data: analysts

LONDON (AFP) . - Gold prices plunged deeper on Monday, reaching their lowest level in more than two years as other metals also fell amid market pessimism owing to an unexpected slump in Chinese economic activity.

After falling below the \$1,500 an ounce benchmark on Friday with a drop of 90 dollars and ounce in two days, gold dropped to \$1,355.79 at one point on Monday, its lowest level since February 14, 2011 before edging back up a bit to \$1,371.03 in late London trading.

Forex.com economist Kathleen Brooks pointed to "fundamental factors that are weighing on the precious metal: weak growth in the US and China, weak inflation pressures globally and the prospects of indebted countries like Cyprus selling their gold reserves to pay back their debts."

Dow Jones Newswires cited traders who noted that prices were also being pushed lower because speculators were selling the precious metal to avoid having to put up more money as collateral to keep their bets open.

Traders typically place just a

small portion of a gold futures' full value when they trade contracts, and this amount, known as "margin," must be topped up when prices fall, Dow Jones explained.

The movement got a real boost however after China said that its economy grew 7.7 percent in the first quarter of this year, well below the 8.0 percent forecast in a poll of 12 economists done by AFP and worse than the 7.9 percent level seen over the previous three months.

The news raised questions about the fundamentals of global growth, analysts remarked.

For Lee Hardman at the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, "global growth concerns intensified further overnight by the release of the weaker than expected Chinese real GDP (gross domestic product) report."

The Indian economy has also produced a string of weak data, and both countries are among the world's biggest buyers of gold.

Meanwhile, cash-strapped eurozone member was reportedly set to sell some of its gold reserves as part of an EU/IMF bailout programme.

The plunging gold prices were accompanied by those of other metals as well.

Silver fell to \$23.02 an ounce, its lowest level since October 2010, and copper dropped to \$7.085 a tonne, its lowest since October 2011.

Prospects for weaker business activity in China also pulled oil prices down.

Brent oil prices plummeted on Monday to a new eight-month low near \$100 per barrel, mirroring losses across financial markets.

Finance

DISH offers \$25.5 bn for Sprint Nextel

NEW YORK (AFP) - US satellite-television provider DISH Network on Monday launched an unsolicited \$25.5 billion bid to acquire Sprint Nextel, trying to derail the offer by Japan's SoftBank to buy 70 percent of Sprint.

DISH said it was offering to buy Sprint, the third-largest US wireless carrier, for \$17.3 billion in cash and \$8.2 billion in stock.

The DISH bid challenges SoftBank's October offer to acquire 70 percent of Sprint for \$20 billion.

That would mark the biggest overseas acquisition by a Japanese firm, but the deal still needs a green light from US regulators, who are seeking to insure the SoftBank merger does not pose problems for national security.

DISH said taking over Sprint would create a unique company that could deliver a fully integrated, nationwide bundle of video, television, broadband Internet and voice services whether in the home or on the move.

Combining resources with DISH would put Sprint Nextel in a stronger position to compete with titan AT&T, but using heavy debt for the deal would bring risk into the mix, according to Enderle.

In an email to AFP, Sprint said the unsolicited DISH bid would be evaluated by its board of directors. The company declined to comment further.

Pay-television giant DISH has been moving aggressively into the wireless business as consumers turn to smartphones, tablets and the Internet to watch TV and movies.

DISH won federal regulatory approval in December to use wireless broadband spectrum for cellphone service.

In January DISH also made a bid for wireless broadband firm Clearwire Corp, topping Sprint's own offer for Clearwire by 11 percent.

Clearwire shareholders are expected to vote soon on the bids.



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Germany 'doesn't have the strength' for more stimulus: Merkel

BERLIN (AFP) - Germany does not have the economic strength to launch another stimulus package now without running the risk of losing market confidence, Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Monday.

In 2009, Germany boosted its crisis-hit economy, Europe's biggest, with large-scale spending, especially to boost employment.

In the debate about how to help eurozone countries hit by high deficits, debt and recession, Merkel has long stressed the need for structural reforms and cost-cutting to rebalance public finances.

Critics especially in southern Europe and France have charged that the fiscal discipline approach stifles growth and adds to the economic pain, calling instead for greater stimulus measures that would revitalise demand.

Last week, US Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew urged Europe's strongest economies to help spur growth, after talks

with his German counterpart, Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble, in Berlin.

Merkel spoke ahead of a meeting of G20 finance ministers and central bankers in Washington on April 18 and 19, when the International Monetary Fund and World Bank will also hold their spring meetings.

There have been growing signals from inside the IMF in favour of an easing of austerity in the eurozone to boost economies in the 17-member currency block and to help revitalise the global economy.

Merkel, speaking on Monday to an audience of bankers, also took care to highlight progress in regulating the financial system, but warned that much work remained to be done.

Merkel said that banks had not yet fully regained the trust they lost during the financial crisis and reminded financial institutions that part of their role was to support the wider economy.



NEW YORK (AFP) - Importers and supporters offered samples of French cheese Mimolette to pedestrians during an event to support the import in the US of the 17th century-old cheese, after the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) blocked the cheese to enter the territory, during an event in New York, in the week-end. The FDA, blocked the import of Mimolette on the ground that the cheese was infested with microscopic cheese mites on the surface, which can cause allergic reactions.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



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EARLY BIRD SPECIAL

Anne Frank museum defends Bieber after furore



THE HAGUE (AFP) - Amsterdam's Anne Frank museum on Monday defended teen idol Justin Bieber amid a furore over his comments that he hoped the Jewish teen who died in a Nazi camp would have been a fan.

"We think that what's special is that a 19-year-old comes to the Anne Frank House and spends an hour visiting on a Friday night," museum spokeswoman Maatje Mostart told AFP amid growing criticism of the pop star's perceived selfishness.

Canadian heartthrob Bieber visited the museum-house, where Frank and her family hid from the Nazis, and wrote in the guestbook: "Truly inspiring to be able to come here. Anne was a great girl. Hopefully she would have been a believer."

A belieber is a term used to describe one of the celebrity's fanatical fans, most of whom are teen or pre-teen girls.

"He could be doing other things in Amsterdam, he was very interested," said Mostart.

"That's more important than

the commotion that we're now seeing. That's the positive side and we want to leave it at that."

Bieber's remarks have provoked furious responses on Facebook, where the museum announced the news, with users attacking Bieber's perceived ignorance.

Esther Voet, director of the Netherlands' Centre for Information and Documentation on Israel (CIDI), said that Bieber's comments were "stupid and shortsighted."

"It shows you that superstars don't always have a stellar IQ," she told AFP.

Anne Frank's diary is a moving account of her two years in hiding from the Nazis with her family in a secret annex that is today a popular museum in central Amsterdam.

She died in 1945 aged 15 at the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in northern Germany.

Bieber is on a European tour and played in the Dutch city of Arnhem on Saturday.

Goa says no to India's first Playboy club

PANAJI (AFP) - The holiday state of Goa has decided to reject a proposal for India's first Playboy club on one of its beaches following complaints that it would promote prostitution, local officials said on Monday. A local lawmaker threatened to go on hunger strike last week if the night-club was allowed to open on Candolim Beach, but it was ultimately rejected on a technicality.

Chief Minister of Goa, Manohar Parrikar, told a state assembly session in state capital Panaji that Playboy's application had failed because it did not meet requirements to set up a beach shack.

PB Lifestyle, the Indian franchisee of the Playboy brand, announced plans in November to open 120 clubs, hotels, fashion cafes and shops in India over the next 10 years.

Goa's tourism minister Dilip Parulekar said the planned venue in Goa had sparked much discussion.

"There have been concerns raised about vulgarity being promoted through the club. We are aware of how prostitution is rampant in the state's coastal belt," he said.

PB Lifestyle, which had insisted there would be no nudity at the venue, was not immediately available for comment on the rejection.

In a bid to appease the country's conservative values, Playboy in December unveiled a new-look costume for the "bunny girl" waitresses in its Indian outlets.

The traditional skimpy corset has been replaced with a sari-inspired two-piece costume, comprising a one-shoulder top, a bare midriff and a sheer, full-length skirt with a split. The ears, bow-ties and fluffy tails remain.

Playboy magazine remains banned in India, along with a host of other foreign "adult" publications, owing to obscenity laws banning material deemed "lascivious or appealing to prurient interests".



JINGHONG (AFP) - People drench each other with water in the streets of Jinghong in southwestern China's Yunnan province on April 15, 2013 as part of an annual Buddhist-inspired festival. Thousands of people armed with plastic water guns and buckets battled on the streets of a southwestern Chinese city Monday, drenching each other as part of an annual Buddhist-inspired festival. A record of around 100,000 people were expected to take part in the event in Jinghong, a few hours drive from China's border with Myanmar.

HAVANA (AFP) - Fidel Castro, the retired leader of the Cuban Revolution, met with Argentine football great Diego Maradona on Saturday, the official media said Monday.

"The exchange between the two old friends was fruitful," the official Cuban Granma daily reported, describing the gathering as "brotherly" and "cheerful."

The newspaper also published photos taken by one of Castro's sons.

Castro, 86, turned over Cuba's presidency to his brother Raul in July 2006 after falling ill, and his public appearances since then have been rare. Maradona arrived in Havana from Caracas where he lent his backing to acting President Nicolas Maduro, who was declared the winner of a snap election to replace the late Hugo Chavez. The results are being contested by the opposition. Castro and Maradona, 52, have had close ties since the football star's first visit to Cuba in 1987. Maradona has also spent time in a Cuban hospital to treat a cocaine addiction and an array of health problems.



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5 Burgers Aruba: Now your best breakfast bargain!



A favorite stop for a great burger for lunch or dinner has just expanded their hours and menu to offer some of the best breakfast bargains to be found in Palm Beach. Owners Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. The couple's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu from an inter-

nationally known franchise with a "5", which now includes breakfast.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," believes Aaron. Upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy,

made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

However, beginning at 7 a.m., patrons can now order 2 eggs any style, (omelets with 3 fillings are \$7.99) toast and coffee with unlimited refills for the special introductory price of only \$4.49, (\$5.48 with bacon) or All-you-can-eat pancakes, for \$6.99, again, with free refills on fresh coffee. Breakfast is served until 11 a.m. Famous for their fries made from fresh potatoes, Aaron has been working for months on devising the most irresistible home fries recipe, chunky and tender with skins still on; after much testing and tasting, he got the thumbs up from his harshest critic, Rosie; so this is another treat you have to try.

A glance at their burger menu will certainly tempt you to return for lunch or dinner, to sample their famous specialty items such as the Gouda, Farmer's or Man Burger (al-



most 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with Aarons' secret-recipe crispy onion rings. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jalapeño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato...whatever, the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries is enough to be shared by

two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!"

Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

5 Burgers is now open early until 10-ish at night; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district at now extra cost for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for either owner to sit and chat, sharing their knowledge of the island while making sure patrons are happy with their meal.

Athletics: Ethiopia's Desisa wins Boston Marathon

BOSTON (AFP) - Ethiopia's Lelisa Desisa won the Boston Marathon men's title on Monday, sprinting away at the finish to end a string of three straight Kenyan victories.

The 23-year-old Desisa won in 2 hours, 10 minutes, 22 seconds to become the fourth Ethiopian to win the race and the first since Deriba Merga in 2009.

Kenyans had won the men's title in the three editions since Merga's victory, but this time around they could do no better than second -- and Kenya's Micah Kogo had to battle at the finish to hold off Ethiopian Gebregziabher Gebremariam for the runner-up spot.

Kogo was second in 2:10:27 and Gebremariam third in 2:10:28. Defending men's champion Wesley Korir was fifth in 2:12:30.

Desisa was running just his second career marathon. He made an impressive debut at the demanding distance in January when he won the Dubai Marathon in 2:04:45 -- the 13th-fastest time in history.

Rita Jeptoo kept the Boston women's title in Kenyan hands, finishing strong to win in 2:26:25.

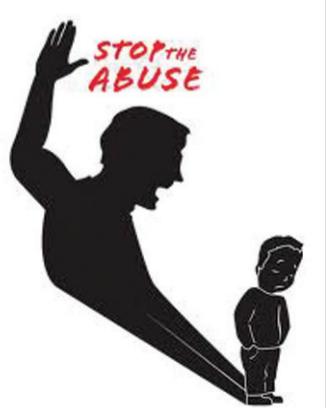
Jeptoo, the third straight Kenyan woman to lift the trophy, added a second Boston title. Since her triumph here in 2006 she had taken time off from 2008-2010 to have a baby.

Ethiopia's Meseret Hailu was second in 2:26.58 and 2012 champion Sharon Cherop of Kenya was third in 2:27.01.

Portugal's Ana Dulce Felix had labored for miles alone in the lead of the women's race, after overtaking Colombia's Yolanda Caballero on the 17th mile.

She built a lead of more than a minute over the field, but by the 23rd mile was peering nervously over her shoulder as a small chasing pack led by Jeptoo closed in and passed her. Felix faded to finish ninth.

Jeptoo said she had been training so well, she knew in the later stages she had plenty in reserve.



Four skiers die in French Alps avalanches

GRENOBLE (AFP) - Four cross-country skiers died in avalanches in the French Alps on the weekend, officials said as they warned of snow melting under springtime sun creating a heightened danger.

A 60-year-old man died on Saturday in the Haut-Alpes region.

The three others -- part of a group of five Frenchmen being guided up the Vanoise Mountain -- died Sunday in the Savoie region. Their companion and their guide survived and were hospitalised.

A rescue police commander, David Petitjean, said the avalanche Sunday happened in the morning so probably was not the result of the sun warming the surface snow.

But authorities in the Alps said there was a "strong" risk of avalanches in the wider area because of generally warmer weather.

A total of 32 people died during France's 2012-2013 ski season, according to the National Association for Snow and Avalanche Research.

Sport

Baseball: World baseball and softball authorities merge

TOKYO (AFP) - World baseball and softball authorities announced on Sunday they would unify as part of a campaign to get both sports back at the Olympic Games in 2020.

The newly created World Baseball Softball Confederation (WSBC) will lobby for the sports' inclusion at the International Olympic Committee's May session in St Petersburg, with the decision to be taken in Buenos Aires in September.

Baseball and softball were dropped from the Olympics after the 2008 Beijing Games, and are competing against climbing, karate, roller sports, squash, wakeboarding, wrestling and wushu for what could be one spot in 2020.

Talking to reporters in Tokyo where the agreement was signed, Fraccari said that the 65 million people currently playing baseball and softball around the world now have a

single federation to rally behind.

"We are on a great journey to return our global sport to the Olympic stage. We've been listening and learning from the Olympic family and the IOC to understand what it takes to be included as a sport at the Olympic Games."

Under the agreement, Don Porter, president of International Softball Federation, becomes the WSBC's other co-president.

Fraccari also announced a new international baseball competition called "Premium 12" to be played among the top 12 teams in the world annually with Japan as the tournament's host.

Premium 12 will not supplant the World Baseball Classic, played every four years and considered international baseball's top competition.

Formula One: 'Women can't compete in F1' - Moss

LONDON (AFP) - British racing legend Stirling Moss does not believe that women are mentally tough enough to compete in Formula One, despite the presence of female test drivers and team principals.

"I think they have the strength but I don't know if they've got the mental aptitude to race hard, wheel-to-wheel," Moss told BBC radio in an interview to be broadcast on Monday.

The 83-year-old's comments were met with astonishment from Susie Wolff, who is hoping to compete in F1 and is currently a development driver for Williams.

"I don't know where to start after hearing that interview," the 30-year-old told the programme "Women in F1".

"I've got a lot of respect for Sir Stirling and what he achieved but I think we're in a different generation."

"For Moss, it's unbelievable that a female would drive a Formula 1 car, which is fair enough. In the days they were racing, every time they stepped into a car, they were putting their life on the line."

"But F1 is much more technologically advanced, it's much

safer than it was," she said, according to the BBC website.

Only five women have ever raced in Formula One and only one has scored a point.

Italian Maria "Lella" Lombardi started 12 races in the 1970s and scored half a point with Brabham.

Her compatriot Giovanna Amati was the last women to enter an F1 race but failed to qualify for three races in 1992.

Danica Patrick is the most successful woman in motorsport and took pole position in this year's Daytona 500 Indy-Car race.

Claire Williams also took over as team principal this year, while Monisha Kaltenborn was last year appointed to head Sauber.

Last season, Spaniard Maria de Villota lost an eye in a crash while testing for Marussia.

Moss, who won 16 F1 races during his career from 1951 to 1961, said he was not surprised that more women had not competed in the sport.

F1 boss Bernie Ecclestone in contrast said there was no reason women should not compete in F1 but said that it was unlikely that female drivers would get the chance with a leading team.

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NASCAR

ROCKINGHAM-- Kyle Larson picked up his first NASCAR national series win on Sunday by holding off Joey Logano on the final restart of the Truck Series race at Rockingham Speedway.

Logano was closing in on Larson when a collision between Timothy Peters and Ryan Sieg brought out the caution with two laps remaining.

Logano had fresher tires and Larson was thought to be a sitting duck for the green-white-checkered restart. Instead, Logano misjudged Larson's start and Larson drove away to the win after leading 187 laps.

Logano, who was second after flying to the race from

Saturday's night's fifth-place finish at Texas, blamed himself for not getting past Larson on the two-lap sprint to the finish.

Brendan Gaughan was third and was followed by Johnny Sauter, and Chase Elliott.

Kyle Larson, a multi-talented 20-year-old from Elk Grove, Calif., and of Japanese-American heritage, finished second in the truck series last November at Phoenix International Raceway. In March, the 2012 NASCAR K&N Pro Series East champion fell inches short of defeating Kyle Busch in a NASCAR Nationwide Series race at Bristol Motor Speedway.

Larson's next NASCAR Nationwide Series start will come April 26 at Richmond International Raceway.

Larson competed under the NASCAR D4D banner in



2012. Created in 2004, the NASCAR Drive for Diversity initiative has seen multiple drivers go through the program. Under the initial model, drivers competed for NASCAR approved and supported developmental teams throughout the United States. The initiative has evolved, and drivers now race for one team, Rev Racing, and have been since 2010.

NBA: continued from 16

Carmelo Anthony scored 25 points without even playing in the fourth quarter of the game at Madison Square Garden.

Anthony, who is hoping to win his first NBA scoring title, nailed his first four jumpers to help give the Knicks an early 9-2 lead. He then made just one of his next 10 attempts.

Anthony suffered a left shoulder contusion late in the third quarter and sat for all of the fourth with the Knicks firmly in control.

Chris Copeland scored 20, J.R. Smith had 15 and Raymond Felton finished with 11 for the Knicks, who have won 15 of their last 16.

Lance Stephenson scored a team-high 22 points for Indiana, who have lost four of their last five contests.

They clinched the number three seed in the East after Brooklyn lost on Sunday to Toronto.

David West finished with 17 points and eight rebounds and Jeff Pendergraph came off the bench to score 12 in the loss.

While The Miami Heat on Sunday got revenge on the Chicago Bulls, winning 105-93 on the back of a 24-point performance from superstar LeBron James at American Airlines Arena.

The Heat's win came three weeks after they were beaten 101-97 by the Bulls -- a loss that ended Miami's near-

record win streak at 27 games.

James also had seven rebounds and six assists, while Dwyane Wade scored 22 for the Heat, who shot 51.4 percent from the field overall.

It marked the sixth straight win and a franchise-record 36th victory at home this season for Miami. The Heat went 35-6 on its home court during the 2004-05 campaign.

Chris Andersen had a season-high 15 points off the bench and Mario Chalmers also scored 15 points in the victory.

Chicago had a half dozen players finish in double figures, led by Luol Deng's 19 points. The Bulls shot just 35.4 percent en route to a fourth loss in five games.

The setback dropped Chicago a full game behind Atlanta for the No. 5 seed in the Eastern Conference with two games to play in the regular season.

Carlos Boozer finished with 16 points and 20 rebounds while Kirk Hinrich and Nate Robinson each had 14 points for the Bulls.

Miami extended their lead in the second half, thanks to Wade's superb play as the all-star guard scored 12 points on four-of-five shooting in the third quarter.

The Heat led 78-68 with 5:28 left in the third and maintained a double-digit lead for much of the rest of the game.

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MLB Standings														
American League			National League											
East	W	L	Pct	GB	East	W	L	Pct	GB					
BOSTON	08	04	.667	--	ATLANTA	11	01	.917	--					
YANKEES	06	05	.545	1.5	NY METS	07	04	.636	3.5					
BALTIMORE	06	06	.500	2.0	WASHINGTON	07	05	.583	4.0					
TORONTO	05	07	.417	3.0	PHILADELPHIA	06	06	.500	5.0					
TAMPA	04	08	.333	4.0	MIAMI	02	10	.167	9.0					
Central			Central			West			West					
KANSAS	07	05	.583	--	ST. LOUIS	07	05	.583	--	OAKLAND	09	04	.692	--
DETROIT	07	05	.583	--	PITTSBURGH	06	06	.500	1.0	TEXAS	08	05	.612	1.0
CLEVELAND	05	06	.455	1.5	CINCINNATI	05	07	.417	2.0	SEATTLE	06	08	.429	3.5
CHICAGO	05	07	.417	2.0	CHICAGO	04	08	.333	3.0	HOUSTON	04	08	.333	4.5
MINNESOTA	04	07	.364	2.5	MILWAUKEE	03	08	.273	3.5	LA ANGELES	04	08	.333	4.5
West			West			West			West					
OAKLAND	09	04	.692	--	SAN FRANCISCO	09	04	.692	--	ARIZONA	08	04	.667	0.5
TEXAS	08	05	.612	1.0	COLORADO	08	04	.667	0.5	COLORADO	07	05	.583	1.5
SEATTLE	06	08	.429	3.5	DODGERS	07	05	.583	1.5	SAN DIEGO	02	10	.167	6.5
HOUSTON	04	08	.333	4.5										
LA ANGELES	04	08	.333	4.5										

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Injuries and Deaths in blast at Boston marathon



BOSTON (AFP) - At least two people were killed and 55 wounded when two explosions struck near the finish line of the Boston Marathon on Monday, sparking scenes of panic, police said.

The streets were littered with debris and blood and paramedics raced off with stretchers as police locked down the area, witness said. TV footage showed an explosion sending up a white plume of smoke along the sidelines of the race.

Boston police confirmed the toll of dead and wounded on its Twitter feed.

Local radio said the first ex-

plosion took place near a sports store and the second went off near a viewing stand. It was not immediately clear whether the explosions were accidental or the result of a terrorist attack.

NBC News later reported that "multiple explosive devices" were found in Boston.

US President Barack Obama was notified about the incident, and his administration was in contact with state and local authorities, a White House official said.

Security was stepped up in New York and Washington, sites of the 9/11 attacks. In the Big Apple, police said they

were boosting security at hotels and "other prominent locations in the city."

The blasts in Boston rattled US markets, sending the Dow and the S&P 500 down at the close.

Zara Bielkus, a 30-year-old spectator from Boston, said she heard two explosions seconds apart. Police then locked down the area.

Local media reported a third explosion nearby, but cited police as saying it was a controlled detonation.

The Boston Marathon is one of the biggest annual athletic events held in the United States, with nearly 27,000 racers who must qualify to compete and tens of thousands of spectators.

The race attracts world-class athletes, most of whom would have likely completed the race a couple hours before the blast went off. Footage of the blast showed the marathon timeclock at 4:09.

Meanwhile police said there was a third explosion near the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library, this one without injuries.

NBA:

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Just one day after Kobe Bryant underwent season-ending foot surgery, the Los Angeles Lakers kept their playoff hopes alive by surprising the first place San Antonio Spurs 91-86 on Sunday.

In a game that had huge playoff ramifications, Dwight Howard had 26 points and 17 rebounds and Steve Blake finished with 23 points and four assists for the Lakers who are 1 1/2 games up on the Utah Jazz..

The Lakers are battling the Jazz for the eighth and final playoff spot in the Western Conference. The Lakers, who have won four consecutive games, have one game left while the Jazz have two contests remaining and hold the tiebreaker.

D'Antoni said replacing Bryant -- who had been playing entire games before he got hurt -- was no easy task but the players are willing to work together to get the results.

Tim Duncan finished with 23 points and 10 rebounds for San Antonio, who trail the Oklahoma City Thunder by a game for the top seed in the Western Conference. The Spurs improved to 58-22 and



Steve Blake #5 of the Los Angeles Lakers drives against Tony Parker #9 of the San Antonio Spurs at Staples Center

are in first place in the Southwest Division.

Neither team led the tightly-played contest by more than six points until the Lakers pulled away in the final quarter by going on a 15-4 run.

Jodie Meeks hit two triples, while Antawn Jamison added another during the run, which was capped by a Howard tip-in to make it 84-73.

San Antonio never cut the deficit to under four for the remainder of the fourth quarter.

The New York Knicks locked up their playoff seed-

ing by clinching the number two spot in the Eastern Conference with a 90-80 win Sunday over the Indiana Pacers.

New York, who never trailed after the seven-minute mark of the first quarter, earned their seeding despite playing without Tyson Chandler, Kenyon Martin and Marcus Camby.

They assured themselves home-court advantage through the Eastern Conference semi-finals and a first-round meeting with the Boston Celtics.

continues on page 15



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